

Central Australian Stolen Generations & Families Aboriginal Corporation

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MEDIA STATEMENT

Central Australian Writer Wins National Award

CASG&FAC Chairperson, Ms Jackie Baxter, is pleased to announce that Central Australian Indigenous writer and member of the Stolen Generations, Ms Ali Cobby Eckermann is the winner of a prestigious national literary award under the Australian Society of Authors (ASA) mentorship program.

Ms Cobby Eckermann has been writing poetry and short stories for the last nine years.

“Her writings reflect her journey to reconnect with her family” said Ms Baxter.

The award provides Ms Cobby Eckermann the opportunity to work with a mentor of her choice for twenty hours over six to twelve months. Ms Cobby Eckermann was one of 12 successful applicants from an original application list of 192.

The winning of the mentoring award follows on from Ms Cobby Eckermann’s other recent successes, including 1st Prize Poetry in the National ATSI ‘*Survival*’ Writing competition held in conjunction with the inaugural Sydney Indigenous Writers’ Festival on the 24 June. She was also Highly Commended for two other entries.

In addition, Ms Cobby Eckermann was invited by the NT Writers’ Centre to attend the highly successful ‘*WordStorm*’ Festival in Darwin recently, where she presented her poetry and participated in panels and workshops.

“This latest opportunity is another step toward my ultimate goal to being published as a writer” said Ms Cobby Eckermann

The ASA mentorship program is funded by a donation from Gillian Rubenstein and bequests from Michael Dugan and Mouni Sadhu. (See attached announcement.)

For further information, contact:

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Australian Society of Authors

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Announcing the winners of the ASA mentorship program 2006–07 27/7/06

We are pleased to announce the 12 successful applicants to the ASA mentorship program 2006-07. They are:

Gloria Burley (non-fiction, Qld)
 Jill Burnside (Young Adult, WA)
 Karen Cunningham (Young Adult, WA)
 Ali Cobby Eckermann (poetry, NT)
 Minh Hien (non-fiction, NSW)
 Krissy Kneen (fiction, Qld)
 Stu Hatton (poetry, Vic)
 Kelly Jones (picture book illustration, Vic)
 Vincent Matthews (fiction, NSW)
 Anne Naylor (children's, NSW)
 Fiona Palmer (fiction, WA)
 Ann Shenfield (picture book illustration, Vic)

Two applicants were highly commended: Gabbie Stroud (children's, NSW) and Elizabeth Wilcock (Young Adult, NSW).

We received 192 applications ranging across fiction, non-fiction, poetry, Young Adult writing, children's writing and picture book illustration.

The selection panel for the program was made up of Jeremy Fisher (convenor), author and editor Janet Hutchinson, poet Chris Mansell and children's writer and illustrator Toby Riddle. The panel reported that the quality of applications was extremely high, and it was not an easy task to select the final twelve.

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